In the Claims:

1.   (currently amended) An apparatus for converting an original set of source objects by reducing the number of objects required to display a description document, said apparatus comprising a generating means for generating a set of new objects, from said original set of source objects in the document, a number of new objects in said set of new objects being fewer than a number of objects in said original set of source objects, said fewer objects obtaining a display image equivalent to the display of an image obtained from said original set of source objects,

wherein said generating means generates said new objects from a transparent or translucent source object and other source objects located at a layer lower than a layer including said transparent or translucent source object and spatially overlapping said transparent or translucent source object,

wherein said generating means generates a new merged object including at least a first source object <u>having an area</u> and a second source object <u>having an area and</u> superimposed on said first source object.

2.   (original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said generating means deletes source objects hidden spatially behind another source object which is not transparent nor translucent.

3.   (cancelled)

4.   (previously presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein generation of said new object from said transparent or translucent source object and said other source

objects is performed for a time range in which said transparent or translucent source object

spatially overlaps said other source objects.

5.   (original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said generating means

deletes a source object when a display time for said source object is out of a display time

range for said set of source objects.

6.   (original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising a means for

storing said set of new objects to a storage medium.

7.   (original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising a means for

selectively storing said set of source objects or said set of new objects to a storage medium.

8.   (original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising a means for

displaying said set of new objects, wherein said apparatus is used as a browser.

9.   (original) The apparatus as recited in claims 1, further comprising a means for

selectively displaying said set of source objects or said set of new objects, wherein said

apparatus is used as a browser.

10.   (currently amended) A method for converting an original set of source objects

by reducing the number of objects required to display a description document, said method

comprising a step of generating a set of new objects, from said original set of source objects

in the document, a number of said new objects forming a set of new objects fewer than a

number of said source objects forming said original set of source objects, to obtain a display

image equivalent to the display image obtained from said set of source objects,

wherein said generation step generates said new objects from a transparent or translucent source object and other source objects located at a layer lower than a layer including said transparent or translucent source object and spatially overlapping said transparent or translucent source object,

wherein said generating step generates a new merged object including at least a first source object <u>having an area</u> and a second source object <u>having an area and</u> superimposed on said first source object.

11.   (original) The method as recited in claim 10, wherein said generation step deletes source objects hidden spatially behind another source object which is not transparent nor translucent.

12.   (cancelled)

13.   (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 10, wherein generation of said new object from said transparent or translucent source object and said other source objects is performed for a time range in which said transparent or translucent source object spatially overlaps said other source objects.

14.   (original) The method as recited in claim 10, wherein said generation step deletes a source object when a display time for said source object is out of a display time range for said set of source objects.

15.   (original) The method as recited in claim 10, further comprising a step of storing said set of new objects to a storage medium.

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16.   (original) The method as recited in claim 10, further comprising a step of selectively storing said set of source objects or said set of new objects to a storage medium.

17.   (original) The method as recited in claim 10, further comprising a step of displaying said set of new objects.

18.   (original) The method as recited in claims 10, further comprising a step 5 of selectively displaying said set of source objects or said set of new objects.

19.   (currently amended) A computer program for causing a computer to execute a method for converting an object display description document by reducing the number of objects required for the display, said method comprising a generation step of generating, from an original set of source objects in the document, a set of new objects which are fewer than a number of said objects forming said original set of source objects, in order to obtain a display image equivalent to the display image obtained from said original set of source objects,

wherein said generation step generates new objects from a transparent or translucent source object and other source objects located at a layer lower than a layer including said transparent or translucent source object and spatially overlapping said transparent or translucent source object,

wherein said generating step generates a new merged object including at least a first source object <u>having an area</u> and a second source object <u>having an area and</u> superimposed on said first source object.

20.   (original) The program as recited in claim 19, wherein said generation step

deletes source objects hidden spatially behind another source object which is not transparent

nor translucent.

21.   (cancelled)

22.   (previously presented) The program as recited in claim 19, wherein

generation of said new object from said transparent or translucent source object and said

other source objects is performed for a time range in which said transparent or translucent

source object spatially overlaps said other source objects.

23.   (original) The program as recited in claim 19, wherein said generation step

deletes a source object when a display time for said source object is out of a display time

range for said set of source objects.

24.   (original) The program as recited in claim 19, further comprising a step of

storing said set of new objects to a storage medium.

25.   (original) The program as recited in claim 19, further comprising a step 10 of

selectively storing said set of source objects or said set of new objects to a storage medium.

26.   (original) The program as recited in claim 19, further comprising a step of

displaying said set of new objects.

27.   (original) The program as recited in claims 19, further comprising a step of

selectively displaying said set of source objects or said set of new objects.

28.   (new) An apparatus for converting an original set of source objects by

reducing the number of objects required to display a description document, said apparatus

comprising a generating means for generating a set of new objects, from said original set of

source objects in the document, a number of new objects in said set of new objects being

fewer than a number of objects in said original set of source objects, said fewer objects

obtaining a display image equivalent to the display of an image obtained from said original

set of source objects,

wherein said generating means generates said new objects from a transparent or

translucent source object and other source objects not transparent nor translucent and located

at a layer lower than a layer including said transparent or translucent source object and

spatially overlapping said transparent or translucent source objects,

wherein said generating means generates a new merged object including at least a first

source object and a second source object superimposed on said first source object.

29.   (New) A method for converting an original set of source objects by reducing

the number of objects required to display a description document, said method comprising a

step of generating a set of new objects, from said original set of source objects in the

document, a number of said new objects forming a set of new objects fewer than a number of

said source objects forming said original set of source objects, to obtain a display image

equivalent to the display image obtained from said set of source objects,

wherein said generation step generates said new objects from a transparent or

translucent source object and other source objects not transparent nor translucent and located

at a layer lower than a layer including said transparent or translucent source object and

spatially overlapping said transparent or translucent source object,

wherein said generating step generates a new merged object including at least

a first source object and a second source object superimposed on said first source object.

30.   (New) A computer program for causing a computer to execute a method for

converting an object display description document by reducing the number of objects

required for the display, said method comprising a generation step of generating, from an

original set of source objects in the document, a set of new objects which are fewer than a

number of said objects forming said original set of source objects, in order to obtain a display

image equivalent to the display image obtained from said original set of source objects.

herein said generation step generates new objects from a transparent or translucent

source object and other source objects not transparent nor translucent and located at a layer

lower than a layer including said transparent or translucent source object and spatially

overlapping said transparent or translucent source object 1,

wherein said generating step generates a new merged object including at least a first

source object and a second source object superimposed on said first source object.

31.   (New) An apparatus for converting an original set of source objects by

reducing the number of objects required to display a description document in accordance with

any one of MHEG-5, DHTML and SMIL, said apparatus comprising a generating means for

generating a set of new objects, from said original set of source objects in the document, a

number of new objects in said set of new objects being fewer than a number of objects in said

original set of source objects, said fewer objects obtaining a display image equivalent to the

display of an image obtained from said original set of source objects.

32.   (New) A method for converting an original set of source objects by reducing

the number of objects required to display a description document in accordance with any one

of MHEG-5, DHTML and SMIL, said method comprising a setup of generating a set of new

objects, from said original set of source objects in the document, a number of said new

objects forming a set of new objects fewer than a number of said source objects forming said

original set of source objects, to obtain a display image equivalent to the display image

obtained from said set of source objects.

33.   (New) A computer program for causing a computer to execute a method for

converting an object display description document in accordance with any one of MHEG-5,

DHTML and SMIL by reducing the number of objects required for the display, said method

comprising a generation set of generating, from an original set of source objects in the

document, a set of new objects which are fewer than a number of said objects forming said

original set of source objects, in order to obtain a display image equivalent to the display

image obtained from said original set of source objects.